

The Master Machiavellian

VOL. I # 11 A P.B.O.P.-M.S. PUBLICATION

8 July 1975

Dispatchio di Machiavelli

Greetings, thou erudite pursuers of diplomatic sagacity! Welcome again to this perceptive journal of military and personal conflicts! I hope that it will enlighten and expand your understanding of Diplomacy and its variants.

Both the third Diplomacy game and the first Colonia variant, designed by Fred Hyatt, are filled. Those enrolled in these should see page 5. The TMM "Dinki-Con" will be held sometime this August at Holmby Park in Beverly Hills. Full details will be forthcoming in the next issue of this publication.

Much is made of the balance of power, and how important this strategy is in good Diplomacy. Few, however, carry this principle to the potential empire situation. Please allow me to explain with an example: When Cesar Borgia took the Romagna and brought it within the Duchy of Urbino, it was simple for his enemies to see the great threat that he presented to them. While the Duke was still weak, his opponents should have fallen on him and torn him to pieces like a pack of wolves. Their error lay in estimating the danger of the man through his achievements, rather than his potential. The application to Diplomacy is apparent.

To illustrate this, examine carefully the following situation: You have been approached by two of your neighbors who also neighbor each other, and each has asked you to go to war with him against the other. Of course, you tell each that you accept his offer - but how do you decide who really to attack? Consider your neighbors' letters. Assume that one is typed meticulously, courteously, and tactfully, holding many tactical explorations of the opening, showing scrupulously the best lines of attack. Assume also that the other letter is handwritten in pencil on wide-lined paper, with several misspellings and diplomatic faux pas, and in general merely proposing an alliance. This letter shows signs of being from one not yet expert in the game of Diplomacy, and certainly far less powerful a player than the writer of the first letter. Now, many would pick the first as their ally, reasoning, "With his help the conquest of the other will be swift, and we can soon go on to bigger helpings. Also I would not have this one for an enemy!" The fault in this is readily seen from imagining what would be the situation after the decimation of the other country. You would have gained units, it is true, but so would he, and his "bigger helpings" may well consist next of you! If instead you allied with the second neighbor, the conquest of the first would be difficult, but could be accomplished with your guiding your ally from error. Then, when the conquest was complete, you would be in the commanding position, able to invade your erstwhile ally now, or even use him somewhere longer. Thus, it can often be said that an unlearned Diplomacy player may prove the more valuable, although this is certainly not always the case.

The principle is clear. Seek out and destroy your strongest enemies, recalling that strength is more in experience than armies, brilliance than muscle, and the fox rather than the lion. Farewell --

Viccolo Machiavelli

The Master Machiavellian is a gazette of postal Diplomacy, its variants, and other wargames. Subs are 12 for \$2.50 (\$2.86 airmail). Game fee is \$1 for regular Dip or \$1.50 for Colonia, and does not include a sub. TMM is pubbed every fourth Tuesday (with varying results!) . . . Diplomacy, copyright Games Research Inc., 500 Harrison, Boston 02118, was invented by Alan Calhmer. Please make checks payable to Michael G. Homeier. STAFF: Editor-in-Chief, Financial Editor: Michael George Homeier; Front Page Editor: Peter Homeier; Game Adjudications: Jonathan I. Reich, Michael G. Homeier; Publicity Agent: David H. Calvert; Contributing Sources: Timothy Lee, Peter Homeier. CIRCULATION 26.

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1974HO

EUROPE PLAYS MUSICAL UNITS AS ARMIES AND FLEETS APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR!

Winter 1903

AUSTRIA(Kissner): Build A Tri.	GERMANY(Fujihara): No change.
ENGLAND(Zimmermann): Build F Lon.	ITALY(Ferguson): Build F Rom, F Nap.
FRANCE(Osheroff?): NRR(GM removes FRF Mid, F Hol); A Par /r/ FRF OTB	RUSSIA(Swabeck): Remove F Bot; A Rum/r/Ukr.
	TURKEY(Lucero): Build A Ank.

Errors in Fall 1903 adjudications included Russia losing only one, Germany gaining none, and due to its annihilated Bulgarian fleet, Italy builds two. Thanks for helping find and correct these mistakes!

1974HO

RUSSIA HANGS IN THERE AS FRANCE GOES TO PIECES

Spring 1904

AUSTRIA(Kissner): NMR. (Due to mix-up, we think; Tom is probably still with us)
 ENGLAND(Zimmermann): F Lon-Eng; F Hol-Nth; F StP H; F Nwy S F StP; F Iri-Mid;
 FRANCE(Osheroff?): NMR. CD. ~~A Bx H~~; A Por H. // A Yor-Lon.
 GERMANY(Fujihara): F Swe-Den; A Pru-War; A Sil S A Pru-War; A Bel-Bur; A Ki H; A Par H; A Gas H.
 ITALY(Ferguson): F Nap-Ion; F Tyr-Wes; F Rom-Tyr; F Spa(sc)-Mid; A Mar /h/.
 RUSSIA(Swabeck): A Gal-War; A Ukr S A Gal-War; A Mos S A Gal-War.
 TURKEY(Lucero): F Bla S A Con*; F Aeg S A Con*; A Con* H; A Ank-Arm.
 * = due to mix-up, read all "Con" references as "BUL"/1 AUGUST!
 --Austrian unit positions (all H): A Tri, F Gre, A Ser, A Rum, A Bud, A ~~Bay~~.
 Summer retreats and Fall moves due 26 July. As for France's apparent CD, will David Letwin once again stand-by with orders? Thanks! Reminder: submit whenever possible preliminary first-set orders, in case of mail trouble.
 Jon Reich, 1443 Jonesboro, L.A. CA 90049 U.S.A. Press follows . . .

BUCHAREST, RUMANIA; 21 Nov. '03: "Field Marshal Gratestdorf today made public details of the breakout from Serbia. 'Early on the morning of October 1st our illustrious armed forces opened with a brutal artillery attack on the Russian positions. With their heads in the air the Ivans tunned and ran. There was sporadic surrendering for the next week, however, as our troops took control of the country.' Rumania is now completely occupied by the Austro-Hungarian army which is now preparing for even greater gains in the future."

TRIESTE, 4 Dec. '03: "The raising of a fourth Austrian army was announced here today by the King. This army will be commanded by General von Tueur, who was adjutant to Field Marshal Gratestdorf during the 'battle'.for Rumania as well as having been in charge of all P.O.W. camps containing Russian prisoners."

Ankara Herald-Advocate, 23 Dec. '03: "Word was received today that our victorious armies have succeeded in re-occupying the province of Bulgaria again, and ousting the Italian forces which had sought to annex it to Italy."

1974HO Press (cont.): "--Since the Italian government of King Ferguson I was 'persuaded' to not only vacate the province but also to disband the occupying forces, HIM The Sultan has rescinded his request for a declaration of war on that country. He stated also, however, that any further incursion into our territory, at home or overseas, would be dealt with immediately with all measures necessary."

New York Freedom, 24 Dec. '03: "Congress today passed legislation restricting the activities of certain U.S. news publications as damaging to the interests of the United States, namely the New York Journal and the New York World for their slanderous and inaccurate reporting which has caused numerous headaches for the White House. Simultaneously the State Department announced that the U.S. 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 7th Fleets have been placed on action stations to enforce President Roosevelt's extending the U.S. sea boundary another 100 miles into the Atlantic to prevent hostilities from arising needlessly."

VIENNA, 14 Jan. '04: "The King today ordered all Russian troops to leave Austria-Hungary. Failure to comply with the King's order will result in the death of every Russian currently in the King's jails as well as the slaughter of the Russian army presently occupying Galicia."

Washington Post, 15 Jan. '04: "In response to the apparent collapse of the French government, the President has given the go-ahead to the U.S. amphibious forces to carry out the occupation of endangered French territories of Madagascar and Indo-China. The 15 battleships which were to have been exchanged for these lands have not been delivered, due to the difficult situation in what is left of France."

Baghdad Bugle, 18 Jan. '04: "In response to recent tensions with the U.S.A. His Imperial Majesty The Sultan today requested that the National Assembly vote increased expenditures for the garrisoning of our New World possessions, and the construction of ships to protect them. In his State of the Empire message, H.I.M. also announced his new civil service program, which will institute competitive examinations for some 75% of the civil service positions. The Assembly is expected to pass both measures before March."

Toronto Tribune, 18 Jan. '04: "In the first election, or balloting, of its kind ever to be conducted in Canada, the overwhelming (87%) number of the citizens have agreed to the political and national union of the United States and Canada! Wild with elation, great crowds filled the streets, cheering in jubilation that now Canada's problems both internally and with Great Britain will cease. The French Canadians, primary backers of this union, are described as being far from merely elated . . ."

Constantinople Clarion, 3 Feb. '04: "Today a convention of anti-imperialist and other anti-government policy groups was convened at the Constantinople Hotel downtown. It is reported that they have formed an opposition party, as yet un-named, which will attempt to defeat the ruling Ottoman Imperial and Moderate Progressive parties coalition in November elections. Their party platform has called for loyalty to the Sultan, opposition to colonial expansion, extending the franchise, and freeing the Arab southern provinces to go their own way. More activity is expected this summer, when a nation-wide congress is planned."

Ankara Herald-Advocate, 6 Feb. '04: "In response to the recent formation of the Turkish Liberal Party in Constantinople, HIM The Sultan today announced that he encourages all parties, even opposition ones, and that no action shall be taken against the T.L.P., since that would be counter to the democratic ideals he has used in reforming the Imperial government. He hopes that all of his subjects will feel free to join whatever party they choose, and feels heartened that the people are unafraid of reprisal enough to form a party such as the T.L.P."

The Times (via Turkey), 15 Mar. '04: "H.R.H. Zimmermann I today announced that our 2nd, 3rd, and 5th fleets are on station at the Turkish New World possessions. He wishes to reaffirm our alliance with Turkey, and stated that our ships shall aid the Turkish fleet in defending their property. He also reported that some American gunboats were sighted near Grand Bahama Island, but that no contact was made."

1975AV

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AS FLEETS SEEM TO BE THE NAME OF THE DAY

Winter 1902

AUSTRIA(Lucero): Build A Bud.
 ENGLAND(Behnen): Remains same.
 FRANCE(Carter): Builds F Mar, F Bre, A Paris.
 GERMANY(Swabeck): Build F Berlin.
 ITALY(Weswig): Build F Naples.
 RUSSIA(Fox): F Rum/r/OTB; build A Sev.
 TURKEY(Pepper): Build F Con, F Smy.

1975AV

TURKEY PURSUES ATTACK ON RUSSIA AS AUSTRIA AND ITALY MOVE TO DESTROY BOTH

Spring 1902

AUSTRIA(Lucero): F Ion-Eas; A Vie-Gal; A Bud S A Vie-Gal; A Gre S ITA A Ser.
 ENGLAND(Bahnen): F Nrg-NAT; F Nth C A Nor-Yor; A Nor-Yor.
 FRANCE(Carter): F Lon-Wal; F Bre-Eng; F Mar-Spa(sc); A Spa-Por; A Par-Pic;
 A Bel S GER A Ruh-Hol.
 GERMANY(Swabeck): F Ber-Bal; F Den-Nth; A Ruh-Hol; A Sil-war.
 ITALY(Weswig): F Nap-Ion; F Aeg S AUS F Ion-Eas; A Apu H; A Ser S AUS A Gre-Bul /nso/.
 RUSSIA(Fox): F Sev-Sw; A War-Gal; A Ukr-Rum; F Sev S A Ukr-Rum. // A Arm-Ser.
 TURKEY(Pepper): F Con S A Bul; F Rum S A Bul; F Smy-Aeg; A Bul S F Rum; UP

Summer retreats and Fall moves due ^{1 AUGUST} 25 July. Reminder: submit whenever possible preliminary first-set orders, in case of mail trouble. This game is predicted to be a "quickie". Jon Reich, 1443 Jonesboro, L.A. CA 90049 U.S.A.

Vienna Tribune, 12 Jan. '02: "His Majesty the Emperor-King ((!)) today convened the first session of the newly formed Austro-Hungarian Parliament. In his State of the Empire-Kingdom Address he officially declared illegal the Hungarian Parliament which convened in Budapest three days ago, and promised that, if that Parliament would officially disband itself as a national government, he would allow it to reconvene as the Hungarian Provincial Assembly. A response to His Majesty's offer is expected within a week."

Budapest Blazar, 18 Jan. '02: "The Hungarian Parliament was officially dissolved today in a close 190-185 vote. In response to this action, H.M. the Emperor-King officially returned the city's garrison to its normal reserve status, but stated that the troops would be used to augment the Budapest Police Dept. if they are unable to end the protests and riots that have plagued the city for the past week. In response to the dissolution, the Magyar Separatist Party today held its third protest, this time in front of the Parliament House itself. Police were able to break up the crowd, with only minor damage to the building, and it is expected the riots will continue at reduced levels for the next few weeks."

Sarajevo Sentinel, 16 Feb. '02: "It was reported here today that the Emperor-King has been assassinated! Police have arrested two suspects; one, a Pan-Serb Nationalist; the other a Magyar Separatist, and are searching for others believed to be part of a conspiracy led by the Serbian government ((What Serb gov't? Can't the Italians keep control?)) His Majesty had been here on a state visit, as Bosnia-Hercegovina has only recently been annexed to the Dual Monarchy. The heir-apparent, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, is expected to ascend the throne."

ST. PETERSBURG, 18 Feb. '02: "Tear Russell I, when asked about our military situation in this NEWest of wars, commented, 'I liked the beginning of it, but things have gone way down hill. In fact, the Russian Steamroller is all out of gas. It's been good while it lasted, but ****' ((nearest English translation 'F--k it')) let someone else be the Balkans' protector!"

Panque Press, 19 Feb. '02: "His Majesty the Archduke was officially sworn in today as the fourth Emperor-King of Austria-Hungary. In his first official speech, he declared a two-week mourning period, with all flags to be at half-mast, government offices to be open half-days, and all businesses to be closed on Saturdays. He also called for an end to the recent protests in Budapest, and promised to hear the complaints of each political party--"

(1975AV Press cont.)"-- that would send a spokesman, starting on Mar. 6. It was reported, that after a brief period of celebration, the protesters in Budapest have broken up in response to the request of His Majesty."

The Times (via Turkey), 20 Feb. '02: "His Royal Highness King Behnen II today sent a letter of condolence to the Emperor-King of Austria-Hungary on the death of his uncle, Franz Joseph. In the letter, H.R.H. promised that, should any of the conspirators surface in England, they shall be extradited immediately to Vienna for trial."

SOMEWHERE IN SIBERIA: "Tsar Russell I has asked that the capital be moved from St. Petersburg to a secret location in Siberia, and eventually to St. Petersburg, Florida, in the United States of America. To this extent, Russia declared war on the U.S. and has captured Alaska and is presently bombing Los Angeles, California; deliberately NOT bombing Tarzana, and only bombing Wiley Carter's future home, Jon Pepper's future home, Jon Reich's future home, &c, &c, &c . . ." ((Ha ha -- mine hasn't been built yet!))

BERLIN, 21 Feb. '02: "Today Kaiser Erich I declared that, in response to the assassination of the Emperor-King of Austria-Hungary, a two-week mourning period is to begin tomorrow. It is hoped that those responsible for this act shall be brought to justice as soon as possible."

Vienna Herald, 3 Apr. '02: "Today the trial of the two suspects and five co-conspirators involved in the assassination of Emperor Franz Joseph Maximilian and his last monarch spouse on Feb. 16 began. Both the prosecution and the defense have spent the last month preparing their cases, and the trial is expected to last for several weeks. H. M. the Emperor-King has stated only that he wishes the guilty to be punished, and has been busy with affairs of the state."

* * * * *

FINALLY, COLONIA GAME BEGINS?

You all have your maps. Or should have them! Michael G. Homeier, 238 N. Bowling Green Way, L.A. CA 90049 will GM ((whatta massochist!)). A Miller assignment is still pending -- this will be TMM #3(v1). Spring 1750 orders due ~~26 May~~. Casting: 1 AUGUST!

AUSTRIA: Ron Stephens, 515 Borough Rd., Tacoma WA98403 -- owes \$0.00

ENGLAND: Karl Scheutz, 20 Toledo L., Willingboro, NJ 08046 - owes \$0.00

FRANCE: Terry Lucero, 17045 Olmeda Way, San Diego, CA92127 - owes \$0.00

NETHERLANDS: Fred G. Hyatt, 400 State St., Brooklyn, NY 11217 - owes \$0.00

PORTUGAL: Wiley Carter, 10628 Blythe Ave., L.A. CA 90064 - owes \$1.50

RUSSIA: Ed Schnaath, 12515 Tanne Rd., Poway CA 92064 -- owes \$0.00

SPAIN: Peggy Gagnani, 3200 NE 38th St, Ft. Lauderdale FL 33308 -- owes \$4.00

TURKEY: Richard Greenwell, 28 Pond Rd., Sidney Mines, NS B1V 2X4 Canada - paid

When printing the maps, we left out the names of the sea provinces on one of the sheets. It should be changed to read like this:

This should be a very fun game. Please, be moderate with the amount of press sent in! But do send some!

ALSO, NAMES SHLD. BE AN HWS. HOME SUP CENTER AND "SUN" SHLD. HAVE A NEXT SUPP. CENTER SYMBOL INIT; CHANG. HWS. AT ASSASSINATING TO "ST"

ANOTHER GAME BEGINS!

1 AUGUST!

Yup, TMM #4 until Boredman # assigned. Spring 1901 orders due ~~26 May~~. GM Jon Reich, 1443 Jonesboro Dr., Los Angeles, California 90049 U.S.A. Casting:

AUSTRIA: Brian Bourns, 198 O'Connor St., Apt. 2; Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1T6 Canada.

ENGLAND: Jim Diehl, 5008 Normandale Highlands Dr., Bloomington MN 55437.

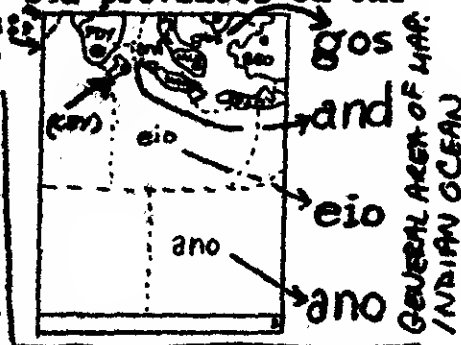
FRANCE: Jon Pepper, 3542 Meier St., L.A. CA 90066.

GERMANY: Russell Fox, 5160 Donna Ave., Tarzana CA 91356.

ITALY: Terry Lucero, 17045 Olmeda Way, San Diego CA 92127.

RUSSIA: Martin Dunn, 283 Flora St., Ottawa Ontario K1R 5S1 Canada.

TURKEY: David Letwin, 2226 Manning Ave., L.A. CA 90064.



Easy on the press, but do send some! Preliminary sets of orders O.K.

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DAS DEUTSCHES AFRIKA KORPS: HISTORY AND ANALYSIS
by Timothy Lee

PART VII -- Italian Artillery and Armored Cars

Italian artillery was decrepit, to say the least. The bulk of them were of Austrian and German origin, designed at the turn of the century and captured or received as booty during World War I. Being vintage pieces, they lacked such modern refinements as good traverse and elevation, as well as recoil devices, requiring their crews to frequently relay their guns when in use. Many were still mounted on caissons drawn by horses(!), with the only concession to progress being the replacement of their steel shod wheels with rubber ones. Versatility was also lacking, with most Italian guns rarely firing more than one type of shell. Ammunition for these weapons had been stored in dumps since 1918, and due to the resulting spoilage, a distressing number became duds. Also, the chronic shortage of motorized transport forced the infantry to haul their own artillery to the battlefield, a sad demonstration of mobility in its crudest form.

The best Italian 75mm gun was undoubtedly the Krupp-patterned Ansaldo 75/27 of 1911. Elevation and traverse was relatively good on this 1-ton field piece. The 75/27 could fire a 14lb projectile at a velocity of 1730 fps from a range of 11,200 yds.

A more typical Italian gun was the 100mm Field Howitzer 100/17. This 1.4-ton howitzer had a low muzzle velocity of 1335 fps and a short range of 10,125 yds. Although its 30lb shell could easily demolish a tank, its low velocity made such a hit unlikely, and its short range put it at a severe disadvantage in desert artillery duels.

The Ansaldo 105mm Howitzer 105/28 was considered to be the finest Italian field piece of World War II, comparable to the United States own 105mm howitzer. Based on the French Schneider design, it possessed the reliable, accurate, and smooth recoil of that famous gun. It was also one of the few Italian pieces to fire shaped charges.

The Italian 149/40 heavy gun was a modern design based on older models of this 6-in caliber, incorporating improvements in ammunition, range, and velocity. It fired a 93lb shell at a velocity of 4600fps. The 149/40's most efficient use came as a self-propelled artillery piece mounted on an elongated M13/41 chassis. And there were others.

The 47mm 47/32 was Italy's principal anti-tank gun. A longer-barrelled version was the main armament of the M13 tanks, while the 47/32 was employed in early Semoventes. Weighing 582lbs, it had one of the smallest ranges of all its desert contemporaries (3,800yds), even shorter than the British 2-pounder or the German 37mm PAK 36. Muzzle velocity was almost negligible (820fps), accounting for its rapid obsolescence as an AT gun.

The best guns were in the anti-aircraft branch. Based on a Krupp design, the 75mm 75/27 of 1918 was the first AA gun to be made in Italy. Its low velocity of 1500fps was nevertheless used to good effect as a mobile AT gun mounted on a 5-cylinder diesel Lancia truck. Its successor, the 75/26, was a better weapon with a high muzzle velocity of over 2500fps, and had a range of 5 miles. It was used primarily as an AA gun.

The excellent Ansaldo 90/53 was one of Italy's most modern weapons, out-ranging even the famed German "88" (32,000yds vs. 26,500yds). It fired its 22lb shells at a lower velocity (2,690fps vs. 2756fps), but the 5.1-ton 90/53 still proved to be a most formidable weapon in battle, and was mounted on both Lancia trucks and M13 chassis (making the Semovente 90/53 the best of the series).

Thus, Italian artillery was generally obsolete and thus characterized by low muzzle velocity, poor mobility, insufficient versatility, and short range. The vast number of gun types (over 30 different calibers) in service made re-

(CONT. NEXT PAGE)

supply impossible, and caused many a battery to fall intact to the British when its shell supply was exhausted. While their crews were not expected to fight on when their supporting units had fled or surrendered (an all too frequent occurrence), they usually did, firing their guns until the enemy armor had literally overrun their positions. Italian artillerymen were well-trained and handled their old equipment with skill and accuracy, but it was simply not enough.

While Italian tanks were of questionable value, Italian armored cars and transports were excellent. The Italian automotive industry had not languished under the Fascist regime, and continued to produce vehicles of high quality and advanced design.

The AB 40 Autoblinda (armored car) was especially designed for desert warfare. This 7-ton AC was armed with a 20mm cannon in its turret and two Breda 38 machine guns. Although its riveted armor was even thinner than that on the M13s, the plating fitted snugly in place, and the vehicle presented a relatively low profile. Well engineered, the AB 40 was powered by the reliable 80hp Spa engine, which gave it a top speed of 51mph, as well as good cross-country ability and endurance. Their 3-man crews excelled in night raids against British supply columns.

An improved version, the AB 41, was introduced in 1942. The crew was increased to 4, road speed lowered to 50mph, and range was over 300 miles. The AB 41 had many excellent features, including independent suspension, 4-wheel drive and steering, 5-speed gearbox plus an overdrive (giving it a wider range than most ACs), and could be driven in either direction (much like the 8-wheeled Sd.Kfz. 231). However, the turret could only hold one man, and visibility was limited. But despite these shortcomings, the AB 41 was one of the finest ACs to come out of the desert war.

Italian transport was also excellent, but like most good things in the Italian Army, there were never enough of them, and the shortage forced the infantry to walk to wherever they were going. Moreover, the huge losses of existing transport (over 1500 vehicles were captured during O'Connor's offensive alone), were only temporarily made up for by the use of captured British equipment, since maintenance of enemy vehicles was difficult, if not impossible.

NEXT: ITALIAN ORGANIZATION AND DOCTRINE; OPERATION CRUSADER AND ROMMEL'S SECOND OFFENSIVE.

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A RISING STAR
by Peter Homeier

... The bolt exploded at the rear of the party. Five of the party's members dropped to the floor, their garments burning furiously as their charred skin gave up a hideous odor. Another of the party slid down, unconscious and with third degree burns over 90% of his body-- he would not last long, if indeed at all.

Those of the party left virtually untouched prepared to do combat as I rushed back into the passageway from the room into which we had previously forced entry. As the evil magic user prepared to use his power once more, I desperately let off with a charm-person spell, which, to our great surprise and relief (as you can well imagine), succeeded!

We had by now had quite enough of this expedition, and decided to depart. While the others searched the scorched remains of our companions in the hope of finding something of use, I investigated the person of my controlled person (trid). The jeweled sword was obviously the instrument of power of this magician, and as such was bound to be of his alignment (Chaotic). The scroll was for casting a mini-lightning bolt, such as had been utilized against us. The "trid" was not disposed of, for we intended to make as much use of his magic for ourselves as we could.

Then, we went back and investigated the room we had discovered just before

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disaster had struck. Our very meticulous search turned up absolutely nothing, and we retired back to the passageway to disappointedly regroup.

Suddenly, as we were about to leave, once again the door leading from the passageway in which we were assembled to the main entrance hallway swung open, and again we saw before us a tall dark figure clothed in featureless robes. Before any action could be taken on our part, we saw the evil magic user point his finger at us and mumble a few unintelligible words, and in the twinkling of an eye, three of our people crumpled to the floor, deep in sleep, leaving only myself and an elf (and, of course, my trid) unaffected. I immediately returned with a sleep spell of my own, and had the satisfaction of seeing my adversary crumple to the floor. I hurriedly advanced with the intent of slitting the throat of the sleeping magician and thus releasing the rest of our party, when to my great surprise and chagrin, the evil magic user I had first charmed turned to me and captured me with a charm spell of his own!

I did not at first believe it possible that he could do that to me, but when I discovered that my body did not obey the commands of my mind, I realized that sometime during the melee with the second evil magician my charm spell must have been broken.

As the elf began to move up to us, sensing something was wrong, my charmer quickly began whispering orders to me, instructing me to kill my friend. As I swung around and, against my will, raised my mace high, prior to bringing it crashing down upon the helm of my elvish friend, the elf suddenly saw what had occurred and successfully went off with a charm-person spell of his own against my charmer, whereupon I froze, motionless.

The elf forced his trid to release me from his charm, and I quickly slit the throat of the sleeping evil magician, and slowly the others staggered to their feet. Quickly reforming, we proceeded to the hallway door to have a look around, keeping a dagger to the throat of the magic user charmed for a second time.

As we peered out into the hallway, we heard the sounds of marching feet coming from the direction of the stairway we had first descended. Then came their shadows, and as they emerged into view we saw them to be a party of Orcs -- nothing very bad except for one small drawback: they were armed with bows, which can be very lethal against characters many levels above the firers. We quickly ducked back inside and leaned against the door, keeping it shut against the pushes of the Orcs, we felt able to attempt entry . . .

TO BE CONTINUED

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This issue was longer than we expected; next issue will be longer plus section!

* * * * *

The Master Machiavellian
c/o Michael George Homer
238 N. Bowling Green Way
Los Angeles, CA 90049, USA

- ☐ Subscription copy
- ☒ Trade copy
- ☐ Complimentary copy
- ☐ Your game has begun!
- ☐ See page 5
- ☐ Boardman # requested; page 5
- ☐ Miller # requested; see page 5



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